

CLAIMS

- 5           1. Method for creating a map of available physical resources on the  
          interface level within an IP network, by performing the steps of:  
          -*combining* (303) a topology map of said IP network with resource  
          information that comprises information about identities of logical  
          addresses and quantity of logical addresses, the method is  
          **characterised** in the further step of:  
10          -*performing* (304) a mapping between said logical addresses and a  
          physical interface within said IP network.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the topology map is obtained by  
          a topology aware resource manager.
- 15          3. Method according to any of claims 1-2, wherein the mapping is  
          performed by collecting information from network elements, e.g.  
          routers by using SNMP.
- 20          4. Method according to any of claims 1-3, wherein said mapping is  
          performed by a resource manager.
5. Method according to claim 4, wherein said resource manager is  
          implemented within a router or a server.
- 25          6. Method according to any of claims 1-5, wherein said logical address is  
          an IP address.
7. A computer program product directly loadable into a server and/or a  
30          router within an IP network comprising the software code portions for  
          performing the steps of any of claims 1-6.
8. A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium,  
          comprising readable program for causing a processing means within a  
35          server and/or a router within an IP network to control the execution  
          of the steps of any of claims 1-6.

- 5 9. Resource manager for creating a map of available physical resources on the interface level within an IP network, comprising means (502) for combining a topology map of said IP network with resource information that comprises information about identities of logical addresses and quantity of logical addresses, the resource manager is **characterised** in that it further comprises means (504) for performing a mapping between said logical addresses and a physical interface within said IP network.
- 10 10. Resource manager according to claim 9, wherein it further comprises means for creating a topology map.
- 15 11. Resource manager according to any of claims 9-10, wherein the resource manager further comprises means for obtaining the physical resource information by collecting information from network elements, e.g. routers by using SNMP.
- 20 12. Resource manager according to any of claims 9-11, wherein said resource manager is implemented within a router or a server.
13. Resource manager according to any of claims 9-12, wherein said logical address is an IP address.